

ABSTRACT

5 A microbubble preparation formed of a plurality of microbubbles comprising a first gas
and a second gas surrounded by a membrane such as a surfactant, wherein the first gas and the
second gas are present in a molar ratio of from about 1:100 to about 1000:1, and wherein the first
10 gas has a vapor pressure of at least about $(760-x)$ mm Hg at 37°C ., where x is the vapor pressure
of the second gas at 37°C ., and wherein the vapor pressure of each of the first and second gases
is greater than about 75 mm Hg at 37°C .; also disclosed are methods for preparing microbubble
compositions, including compositions that rapidly shrink from a first average diameter to a
second average diameter less than about 75% of the first average diameter and are stabilized at
10 the second average diameter; kits for preparing microbubbles; and methods for using such
microbubbles as ultrasound contrast agents

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